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ALTOON SAPRICHIAN

MAY 12, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1743]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S.1743) for the relief of Altoon Saprichian having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Altoon Saprichian. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 60-year-old native and citizen of Turkey who last entered the United States as a visitor on August 26, 1950. For many years she was employed as a teacher in a mission operated by the American Congregational Foreign Mission, in Piraeus, Greece. She has a 57-year-old sister who is a citizen of the United States.

A letter with attached memorandum dated March 25, 1952, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

MARCH 25, 1952.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 1743) for the relief of Altoon Sapri-

chian, an alien. The bill would grant the alien permanent residence in the United States.

A memorandum of information, prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department setting forth the facts in the case of this alien, is attached.

The record presents no facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation granting a preference over other aliens similarly situated who desire to enter this country for permanent residence, but who are required to remain abroad and await their turns for quota numbers.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Sincerely,

A. DEVITT VANECH,
Deputy Attorney General.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE ALTOON SAPRICHIAN, BENEFICIARY OF S. 1743

Miss Altoon Saprichian was born in Harpoort, Turkey, during April 1892. She is a citizen of Turkey of the Armenian race. She last entered the United States on August 26, 1950, at the port of Miami, Fla., via plane, from Haiti and was admitted as a visitor to October 31, 1950. She was granted an extension of her temporary stay to April 30, 1951. Her application for a further stay was denied but she was granted until June 10, 1951, within which to depart from the United States. She did not depart and on September 12, 1951, a warraut of arrest in deportation proceediugs issued against her containing the charge that after admission as a visitor she has remained longer than permitted under the immigration laws.

From 1926 until 1949 the alien resided in Piraeus, Greece, where she was employed as a teacher in a mission operated by the American Congregational Foreign Mission. She arrived in Haiti on January 12, 1950, where she joined her sister, Sarra Saprichian, an American citizen, whom she subsequently accompanied to the United States. The alien's sister, who had suffered a heart attack in Haiti, is employed as a nurse at the New York Hospital and earns about $250 a month. She was hospitalized at the New York Hospital during August and September 1950, and has since continued under the care of the cardiac clinic of that hospital. Miss Altoon Saprichian believes that her presence is necessary to her sister's peace of mind and physical comfort. She prepares her quarters and meals since her sister is not well enough to carry on her work as a nurse and at the same time do her own houskeeping.

Inasmuch as the quota of Turkey, to which the alien is chargeable is oversubscribed, an immigration visa is not readily obtainable.

Senator Herbert H. Lehman, the author of the bill, submitted a number of letters and documents in connection with the case, among which are the following:

AFFIDAVIT

Re Saprichian, Miss Altoon M. 0300-359308 56280/695, request for act of Congress for permanent residence as a refugee.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
County of New York, ss:

I, Sarah Saprichian, residing at 1320 York Avenue, in the city, county and the State of New York, being duly sworn depose and say:

That I am a citizen of the United States, being naturalized by the United States District Court held in New York City on September 2, 1937, and was issued Certificate No. 425960. That I am single.

That I am a registered nurse by profession, and since 1934 I have been employed as a graduate nurse at the New York Hospital. That I was born in Harpoot, Turkish Armenia, and graduated from the American Euprates College and the hospital as a nurse. That during World War I, I served as a nurse in the American Hospital, and later in the hospital of the American Near East Relief Hospital. That in 1922 I came to Greece with the Armenian regugees from Turkey, and until 1927 I was employed as a nurse in the American Women's Hospital in Athens, Greece. That since 1927 I have been in the United States.

That during World War I, my parents were killed; my sister Altoon and I were saved because we were employed by American institutions. That my only other surviving relative is Dr. K. M. Davidian of New York, who is a veteran of World War I, having served in the United States Army during that war. That my sister Altoon M. Saprichian was also a graduate of the American College in Harpoot; that she was employed in Harpoot by the American missionaries as a kindergarten and first grade teacher for 7 years, and in 1922 she also came to Greece with the Armenian refugees, and from 1922 to 1949 October she was employed in Greece as teacher in the Armenian Evangelical Schools supported jointly by the American Board of Missions and the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.

That it has been my desire to bring my sister to the United States for permanent residence, and she was registered in the American consulate in Athens, Greece, as an applicant for visa as a quota immigrant under Turkish quota in October 2, 1937. That on February 14, 1941, she was informed by the American consulate that visa number was available for her, but she was advised to wait until the end of war. But after the war she was put back on the waiting list, but she has been deprived of her priority on the Turkish quota list. The demand for first preference quota numbers have so increased that till now no quota numbers have become available for my sister. That no assurance is given as to when quota number may become available for her. That it was after learning this situation from the Visa Division of the Department of State, I wished to bring my sister to Haiti, where I could visit her during my summer vacations and where living conditions were better than in Greece, where during the war my sister suffered much hardships.

That while I was visiting my sister in Cap Haitian, Haiti, on August 6, 1950, I had several severe heart attacks, and was taken to the hospital and received treatment for 10 days. That not being well enough to travel alone, my sister accompanied me to New York, being granted a temporary visitor's visa by the American consul at Haiti. That my sister has been with me since August 26, 1950. That after my return to New York I was admitted to the New York Hospital as a patient and was in bed until November 15, 1950. That I am suffering from coronary occlusion, which may develop at any time to angina pectoris. That I am now able to serve in the hospital as a night nurse in charge of a small ward of 10 beds, but no one can tell how long I shall be able to do this work. That in view of the precariousness and uncertainty of my health, the departure of my sister from the country will work extreme hardship on me and will have disastrous effect on my health.

That in addition to above considerations, I wish to call your attention to the following facts:

First, my sister both by education and character and service has been associated all her life with American missionaries and institutions. That in fact she has been an American protégée. She has been a firm believer of American way of life. She has promoted all her life American ideals and education in the Near East.

Second, she is truly a refugee and has been a refugee since the end of the World War I. She is a stateless person, and is not citizen of any country. She is in possession of a Nansen Certificate of Identity issued by order of former League of Nations and recognized now by the United Nations Refugee Commission.

Third, that the only reason she is unable to adjust her status as a refugee under section 4 of Displaced Persons Act of 1948, as amended, because she has entered into the United States in August 26, 1950, instead of April 30, 1949, as provided for by that act.

Fourth, that she is no longer able to return to Greece as a refugee, as she has been away from Greece more than a year, and that is the Greek law. If she returns to Haiti, she has no one there, and cannot speak the language of the people. My health will not permit me to visit her in the future. She will be suffering from lonesomeness while I will be suffering here myself.

Finally, no hope is given by our Government as to when a quota number may become available for my sister. That under these most unfortunate circumstances, I am constrained humbly to beg the Congress of the United States by special act to grant relief by permitting my sister to remain in the United States as a permanent resident. That it is evident that under the present circumstance no other remedy is available.

SARAH SAPRICHIAN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of May 1951.

[SEAL] VICTOR L. ROSSI,
Notary Public.

Commission expires March 30, 1953.

THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF NEW YORK,
New York 16, N. Y., May 28, 1951.

Hon. HERBERT H. LEHMAN,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

HON. SENATOR LEHMAN: I, Antranig A. Bedikian, the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York since 1915, and a citizen of the United States, vouch for the following facts as I know them to be true:

First, that I have known Miss Sarra Saprichian as a member of this church in good and regular standing since 1933, held in high esteem and affection by me and the membership of this church for integrity of character, exemplary Christian life, kindness, and charity.

Secondly, that she has been a resident nurse at the New York Hospital for many years doing her assigned work with competence and devotion.

Thirdly, that she is a most loyal citizen of the United States.

Fourthly, that she has been suffering of a failing heart that made hospitalization and medical care necessary for months. Although at present she is on duty but her assignments are light. But her health continues to be precarious.

Fifthly, that on the basis of her condition she was permitted to have her sister, Altoon Saprichian, come from Haiti to take care of her during her sickness. Her term of stay in United States having been expired she will have to leave unless some special dispensation can be made in her favor. Considering Miss Sarra Saprichian's precarious condition the necessity of making some such dispensation is urgent and the case is so genuinely deserving of favorable consideration that we submit this request on her behalf.

Respectfully yours,

A. A. BEDIKIAN.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1743) should be enacted.

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